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may say that most, if not all, of these combinations became absolutely necessary by reason of continued and ruinous competition, pushed to such a degree that profits were impossible; and that, while they may enhance prices to the consumer, they are not so injurious to trade as free and unrestrained competition, which is "a war of all against all and ends in the destruction of the greatest number." The consumer may benefit, for a period, by extremely low prices, long credit and other inducements offered to purchasers, but when the destructive competitive war ceases he suffers to a greater extent than he benefited before.

NORBERT HEINSHEIMER.

The County Councillor's Guide. Edited by HENRY HOBHOUSE, M.P., and E. L. FANSHAW, Barristers at Law. London, W. Maxwell & Son, 1888. — xxx, 294 pp.

The County Council Compendium. By HENRY STEPHEN, Barrister at Law, and HORACE E. MILLER, LL.B., Barrister at Law. London, Waterlow & Sons, Limited, 1888. — xxiii, 414 pp.

The Councillor's Handbook. By NICHOLAS HERBERT and A. F. JENKIN, B.A., Barrister at Law. London, Hadden, Best & Co., 1888. — 435 pp.

One of the immediate effects of the Local Government act of last year (which was commented upon in the *POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY* for June, 1888) has been the publication of a great number of commentaries on this most important law. The purpose of these commentaries is, in the main, to explain the duties of the new authorities created by the act and to give the text as well of the Local Government act itself as of various other statutes which modify or develop its details. Of these publications the books above cited are the most important. Though all of them have the same purpose in view, they differ in the manner of presenting the subject. Each has points of excellence which are not to be found in the others.

The *Guide* contents itself, in the main, with printing the text of the Local Government act, with a running commentary upon it, containing, in addition to the necessary explanations, references to the various statutes which modify or carry out its provisions. In addition to the text of the Local Government act are to be found also the text of the County Electors act, and important sections of the Municipal Corporations act of 1882 and the Public Health act of 1875 — all of them statutes having great influence on the local government system, and all treated in the same way as the Local Government act. This method of

treatment, though valuable for purposes of reference, is of little use to the foreign student of the English system of county government. To offset this disadvantage, the authors have prefaced the text of these acts with an epitome of the reform, which is, however, quite inadequate for the scientific presentation of the subject. This is especially to be regretted because the authors are exceptionally well qualified for a much more pretentious work than that which they have done, one being a member of the House of Commons which passed the new act, the other having assisted in the preparation of the bill on which it was founded.

The *Compendium* and the *Handbook* are written in quite a different way. Their authors have, it is true, printed in full the texts of the important acts governing the subject of county government, but these are placed in appendices. In the body of their books they have endeavored to treat their subject in a really scientific manner, though in the *Handbook* are to be found occasional relapses into that alphabetic enumeration of details which seems so dear to the English writers on local government, but which so detracts from the interest of almost all existing books on the subject. In each of these manuals we find a general sketch of the conditions existing before the reform, a description of the earlier attempts at reform, and an analysis of the probable effects of the reform on particular branches of English local administration. Separate chapters are also devoted to the organization of the new county council, to its powers and duties, and to county finances. The *Handbook* contains, further, a chapter on the proceedings of the first county council, which, though of undoubted value to those Englishmen who will aid in applying the new law for the first time, is of comparatively little use to the American student.

The *Compendium* contains, in addition to the matter common both to it and to the *Handbook*, a chapter on the present position of the metropolis of London which will be of interest to every one who desires to acquaint himself with the modifications that have been made in the form of government of the greatest city of the world — modifications which have been greatly needed, which have been long in coming, but which the present administration has been able to bring about with an almost phenomenal ease. The *Compendium* contains also a chapter on the district councils, which were provided by the original bill, but which press of time prevented the Parliament from considering at all. Of course this chapter consists necessarily of surmises and prognostications based on the provisions of the original bill; but as the next step in the reform movement — which, it may be added, must be taken very soon — will be the formation of some council to perform the duties of the many authorities below the county council, an indication of the probable

solution of the question cannot fail to interest the foreign observers of English political and administrative development.

While the *Compendium* and the *Handbook* are both to be preferred to the *Guide* for the use of American students, it is with little or no hesitation that I recommend the *Handbook* as the better of these two. But each supplements the other, and the two together give about all the information at present attainable on this, the last — and, it may be added, the most important — of England's attempts to bring her system of local administration into accord with modern conditions.

FRANK J. GOODNOW.

Handbuch des Völkerrechts. Herausgegeben von Dr. FRANZ VON HOLTZENDORFF. Bde. II, III. Hamburg, J. F. Richter, 1887, 1888. — 8vo, 671, 797 pp.

Introduction au Droit de Gens. Par FRANZ DE HOLTZENDORFF et ALPHONSE RIVIER. Édition française. Hamburg, Verlagsanstalt A.-G. (vormals J. F. Richter), 1889. — 8vo, 524 pp.

The first, or introductory, volume of this work — a French edition of which has just appeared — was reviewed in the June number for 1886 of the *POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY*, and by its scientific and philosophic tone raised expectations that are hardly satisfied by the second and third volumes, which deal with the subject of international law proper. Each subdivision (*Stück*) is in the nature of an essay from the pen of such prominent publicists as Drs. Geffcken, Stoerk, Gareis, Geszner, Caratheodory, Melle, Dambach, Meili, Bulmerincq, Lammasch and Dr. Holtzendorff himself; and in many respects, especially on the matters touching consular and commercial regulations, there is found in this work a fuller and more thorough presentation of the matter than in any other treatise. Nevertheless, in more than one important instance, the present volumes fall short of the scientific and philosophic standard raised by the first volume.

In the first place, the section on the present diplomatic status of the papacy, by Dr. Geffcken, is not only in opposition to accepted principles of international law, but it seems even out of keeping with the tenor of the subdivision on the origin and attributes of the state from the pen of Dr. Holtzendorff — a subdivision of which that section forms part. After considering the papacy historically as a diplomatic entity, analyzing with keenness its present status as established by the domestic enactment of the Italian government known as the "law of guaranty," and describing with clearness and vigor the resulting and existing conflict